



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Takashi Fukaya, et al.

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Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 56-144410, published November 10, 1981 together with an English language abstract;
2. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 3-80849, published April 5, 1991 together with an English language abstract;
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-117015, published April 27, 2001 together with an English language abstract; and

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 11, 2003

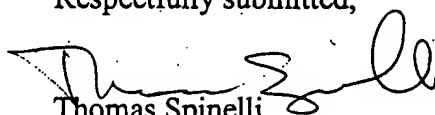

Thomas Spinelli

4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 4-355712, published December 9, 1992 together with an English language abstract.

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references. The relevance of references 1 and 2 has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

TS:cm

